

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01324 041207Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 /069 W

----- 044493

R 041100Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8214

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 1324

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP

SUBJECT: TROUBLES OF WASHPOST CORRESPONDENT DUSKO DODER

1. AFTER CONSIDERABLE TROUBLE GETTING VISA, DUSKO DODER OF WASHPOST HAS BEEN IN PRAGUE FOR PAST WEEK. HE HAS BEEN DISTURBED BY HEAVY SURVEILLANCE WHICH HE FEELS AMOUNTS TO HARASSMENT.

2. UPON ARRIVAL, DODER MENTIONED TO EMBOFFS (INSIDE CHANCERY AND IN PRIVATE CAR--SUPPOSEDLY ONLY TIMES HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01324 041207Z

DISCUSSED HIS PLANS) THAT HE WANTED TO GO TO BRATISLAVA

TO TRY TO SEE DUBCEK. EMBOFFS STRONGLY DISCOURAGED IDEA. WHEN DODER MADE INITIAL CONTACT WITH MFA PRESS OFFICE, ACTING CHIEF KADNAR TOLD HIM (A) HE APPRECIATED DODER'S PAST OBJECTIVE REPORTING ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA; (B) HE UNDERSTOOD DODER WANTED TO SEE DUBCEK, AND STRONGLY ADVISED AGAINST IT, SINCE AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT ALLOW HIM TO MAKE CONTACT ANYWAY AND HE WOULD ONLY MAKE TROUBLE FOR HIMSELF AND PRESS DEPARTMENT. (DODER WAS AWARE OF LONDON EXPRESS CORRESPONDENT BRIAN VINE'S STORY MAY 26 ABOUT BEING EXPELLED FROM CSSR AFTER ATTEMPTING TO TALK TO DUBCEK, AND FELT THIS MIGHT HAVE SOME RELATIONSHIP TO KADNAR'S STRONG APPROACH TO HIM RE DUBCEK.) ALTHOUGH DODER DROPPED IDEA OF GOING TO BRATISLAVA, AND INSTEAD SCHEDULED PLEASURE TRIP WITH HIS WIFE TO SOUTHERN BOHEMIA, HE REPORTED VERY HEAVY SURVEILLANCE, INCLUDING CLOSE-UP TRAILING OF CAR AND OF HIMM PERSONALLY, AND SHOWY USE OF CAMERAS.. DODER FELT THAT SURVEILLANCE AMOUNTED TO HARASSMENT. HE DID ACKNOWLEDGE, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD SEEN SOME OF THE PRAGUE DISSIDENTS, AND ENLISTED ONE OF THEM, VACULIK, TO HELP HIM LOOK (UNSUCCESSFULLY) FOR APARTMENT OF ANOTHER, MMLYNAR.

3. DODER REPORTED SURVEILLANCE TO WASHPOST AND FOISIE HAS PROMISED TO TAKE UP MATTER WITH CSSR EMBASSY. DODER ASKED CHARGE'S PERSONAL OPINION ABOUT PROTESTING SURVEILLANCE TO KADNAR AT MFA. CHARGE SAID THAT WHILE HE REGRETTED SURVEILLANCE, HE THOUGHT DODER HAD COME AT SENSITIVE TIME AND WAS SEEING (OR TRYING TO SEE) SENSITIVE PEOPLE, AND POLICE WERE ON THE ALERT. CHARGE SAID HE THOUGHT PROTEST TO MFA WOULD PROBABLY NOT DO MUCH GOOD AT THIS STAGE, AND MIGHT CONCEIVABLE INCREASE DODER'S PROBLEMS NEXT TIME HE CAME. AFTER LONG CHAT, DODER SAID HE HAD DECIDED NOT TO PROTEST TO KADNAR AT THIS TIME.

4. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, FOLLOWING DODER'S LAST VISIT, ZANTOVSKY (HEAD 6TH DEPT MFA) TOLD CHARGE DODER WAS MAKING MISTAKE IN VISITING DISSIDENTS. (IT MAY OR MAY NOT BE RELEVANT THAT ON JUNE 2, ZANTOVSKY MADE STRONG POINT AT RECEPTION OF TELLING CHARGE HOW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PRAGUE 01324 041207Z

OBJECTIONABLE HE FOUND HERALD-TRIBUNE REPORTING ON HUSAK ACCESSION TO PRESIDENCY.) HOWEVER, WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK THAT DODER'S HEAVY SURVEILLANCE ON THIS VISIT WAS BROUGHT ON MAINLY BY CONTINUING POLICE NERVOUSNESS ABOUT DISSIDENTS GETTING INFORMATION AND PERHAPS PUBLICATIONS INTO HANDS OF JOURNALISTS; AND POSSIBILITY OF DODER TRYING TO SEE DUBCEK MUST HAVE BEEN

PARTICULARLY SCARY. IF IT IS TRUE, AS RUMORED, THAT
MLYNAR WAS AUTHOR OF LONG DOCUMENT THAT POLICE WERE
ESPECIALLY EAGER TO CONFISCATE, THEN DODER SEARCH FOR
MLYNAR DID NOT HELP. WE THINK THEREFORE THAT PROTESTING
SURVEILLANCE OF DODER IN ANY OFFICIAL WAY (OR ENCOURAGING
HIM TO) IS NOT WISE. IF DEPARTMENT FEELS OTHERWISE,
HOWEVER, WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH MFA.
PERRY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HARASSMENT, SURVEILLANCE, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRAGUE01324
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750195-0204
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750681/aaaacwlt.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <26 SEP 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TROUBLES OF WASHPOST CORRESPONDENT DUSKO DODER
TAGS: PDIP, CZ, US, (DODER, DUSKO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006